

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 COA-02 DLOS-07

OMB-01 DRC-01 /147 W

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R 161450Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8574

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

CINCLANT NORFOLK

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3782

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NO UR SV

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF ALLEGED SIGHTING OF SOVIET SUBMARINE AT
SPITSBERGEN

REF: (A) OSLO 3550 (B) OSLO 3705

1. FONOFF OFFICIAL (BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN) TOLD EMBOFF THAT, FOLLOWING
THE RECENT ALLEGED SIGHTING OF SOVIET SUBMARINE AT
SPITSBERGEN BY NORWEGIANS, NORWEGIAN GOVERNOR ON
SPITSBERGEN, RESIDENT AT LONGYEARBYEN, ASKED THE
SOVIET CONSUL AT BARENTSBURG WHETHER A SOVIET
SUBMARINE HAD VISITED SPITSBERGEN. THE SOVIETS
DENIED IT FLATLY.

2. DESPITE DENIAL, NORWAY FLEW AN ORION AIRCRAFT
OVER THE SOUTH SPITSBERGEN AREA WHERE THE SUBMARINE
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HAD BEEN REPORTED, ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 1 OR 2. THE

AIRCRAFT DETECTED NO SUBMARINE.

3. FOLLOWING THE ORION SEARCH FOR THE SUBMARINE, THE SOVIET DCM IN OLSO (SMIRNOV) VISITED BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN AND PROTESTED AGAINST THE ORION FLIGHT, SAYING THAT IT WAS CONTRARY TO 1920 TREATY AND TO FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND NORWAY. BUCHER-JOHANNESSEN SAID SMIRNOV READ HIS PROTEST BUT DECLINED LEAVE A PIECE OF PAPER WITH HIM.

4. BUCHER-JOHANNESEEN SAID THAT IN REPLY HE TOLD SMIRNOV THAT NORWAY HAD FULL SOVIEREIGNTY OVER SPITSBERGEN UNDER THE 1920 TREATY AND HAD THE RIGHT TO SUPERVISE SVALBARD AND TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 9 OF THE TREATY WHICH PROVIDED THAT NO MILITARY BASES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED THERE. HE ASKED SMIRNOV WHETHER SOVIET PROTEST MEANT THAT USSR DID NOT RECOGNIZE NORWAY HAD RESPONSIBILITY TO ENFORCE ARTICLE 9. SMIRNOV MADE NO COMMENT BUT CONFINED HIMSELF TO CONTENTS OF HIS PAPER CONTAINING SOVIET PROTEST.

COMMENT: SOVIET ACTIONS SHOW INCREASED TEMPO OF SOVIET PROBES ON ARCHIPELAGO WHICH CONCERNS GON. WE VIEW THIS AS SOVIET EFFORT TO TEST GON WILLINGENESS TO EXERCISE ITS SOVEREIGNTY IN SELECTED AREAS AND PRIMARILY ORCHESTRATED AS WELL TO IMPACT ON FORTHCOMING SOVIET GON NEGOTIATIONS ON NORTHERN CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY VIEWS FROM DEPT OR MOSCOW ON OTHER POSSIBLE REASONS FOR SOVIET ACTIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOVEREIGNTY, SHIP MOVEMENTS, SUBMARINES, ALLEGATIONS, SPITSBERGEN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OSLO03782
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740226-0396
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740841/aaaabjaj.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) OSLO 3550 (B) OSLO 3705
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFTERMATH OF ALLEGED SIGHTING OF SOVIET SUBMARINE AT SPITSBERGEN
TAGS: PFOR, NO, UR, SV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005